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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. A method of generating digital traffic for use in testing a multi-port communication device, said method comprising the steps of:

generating a reference digital traffic pattern;

generating a plurality of traffic streams replicated from the reference digital traffic pattern, wherein the plurality of traffic streams are used for loading respective input ports of the communication device; and

introducing a plurality of phase delays among the plurality of traffic streams when compared to the reference digital traffic pattern.

Please cancel Claim 2.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the communication device effects statistical multiplexing amongst the plurality of traffic streams.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. A method of loading a multi-port communication device with digital traffic, the method comprising the steps of:

generating a digital traffic pattern; and

providing a plurality of streams replicated from the digital traffic pattern to input ports of the communication device, the plurality of streams having a plurality of phase delays

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therebetween.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. A method of loading a multi-port communication device with digital traffic, said method comprising the steps of:

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generating from a digital traffic stream a plurality of digital traffic streams having identical data content thereto; and

providing the plurality of digital traffic streams with a plurality of phase delays therebetween to input ports of the communication device.

Please amend Claim 13 as follows:

13. Apparatus for generating digital traffic for use in testing a multi-port communication device, said apparatus comprising:

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a reference pattern generator generating a reference pattern defining a digital traffic pattern;

a traffic stream replicating device generating a plurality of traffic streams replicated from the reference pattern;

means for introducing respective phase delays among the plurality of traffic streams; and wherein the plurality of traffic streams load respective input ports of the communication device.

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Please cancel Claim 14.

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Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

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15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the communication device effects statistical multiplexing of the plurality of traffic streams.

Please amend Claim 18 as follows:

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18. An apparatus for loading a multi-port communication device with digital traffic, the apparatus comprising:

a traffic generator generating input digital traffic; and

means for providing a plurality of streams replicated from the input digital traffic to input ports of the communication device, the plurality of streams provided with phase delays therebetween.

Please amend Claim 20 as follows:

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20. Apparatus for loading a multi-port communication device with digital traffic, the apparatus comprising:

means for generating from a digital traffic stream a plurality of digital traffic streams having identical data content thereto; and

means for providing the plurality of digital traffic streams to input ports of the communication device with a phase delay introduced to at least one of the plurality of digital traffic streams.

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Please amend Claim 22 as follows:

22. A digital data stream replicating device, comprising:

an input port for receiving an input continuous digital data stream comprising input data blocks at an input transmission rate;

broadcast means for replicating the input continuous digital data stream into N streams of replicated continuous digital data streams;

N output ports for transmitting the plurality of replicated continuous digital data streams at output transmission rates, each output transmission rate at least equal to the input transmission rate; and

delay means for introducing a predetermined delay for each replicated continuous digital data stream of the plurality of replicated digital data streams with respect to the input continuous digital data stream.

Please amend Claim 24 as follows:

24. The device according to claim 22, wherein the delay means comprises:

a memory having N first-in first-out (FIFO) logical buffers established therein, each logical buffer being associated with one digital data stream of the plurality of replicated continuous digital data streams,

wherein when a logical buffer of the N FIFO logical buffers is full, data blocks associated with the logical buffer are forwarded to an output port of the N output ports associated with the logical buffer, such that a delay provided to a digital data stream transmitted through the output port correlates to a length of the logical buffer.

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Please amend Claim 33 as follows:

33. A digital data stream replicating device for providing data traffic input patterns to a communication device, comprising:

an input port for receiving a continuous digital data stream comprising input data blocks at an input transmission rate;

a memory;

N output ports, each having an output transmission rate at least equal to the input transmission rate;

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processing means, connected between the input port and the N output ports, for establishing N first-in first-out logical buffers in the memory and associating each of the input data blocks of the continuous digital data stream with each one of the N logical buffers so as to replicate the input data blocks thereacross, each logical buffer being associated with only one of the output ports; and

scheduling means for forwarding data blocks associated with a given logical buffer through its corresponding output port when the given logical buffer is full.

Please cancel Claim 38.

Please amend Claim 39 as follows:

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39. The device according to claim 33, the device further including means for introducing empty data blocks into an output digital data stream replicated by the logical buffer for its corresponding output port when the output transmission rate of its corresponding output port is greater than the input transmission rate.

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Please cancel each of Claims 41 and 42.

Please amend Claim 44 as follows:

44. A performance testing device, comprising:

- a traffic generator for generating a continuous digital data stream;
- an input port for receiving the continuous digital data stream at an input transmission rate;
- broadcast means for replicating the input digital data stream N times;
- N output ports for transmitting each such replicated digital data stream through a separate output port at an output transmission rate at least equal to the input transmission rate; and
- delay means for introducing a predetermined relative delay for each said transmitted digital data stream with respect to the input digital data stream.

B13
I Please amend Claim 45 as follows:

45. A performance testing device, comprising:

- a traffic generator for generating a continuous digital data stream;
- an input port for receiving the continuous digital data stream comprising input data blocks at an input transmission rate;
- a memory;
- N output ports, each having an output transmission rate at least equal to the input transmission rate;
- processing means, connected between the input port and the N output ports, for establishing N first-in first-out logical buffers in the memory and associating each of the